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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 9 June 1948

SUBJECT Organisation of Communist Action
Committees for Germany

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PLACE
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25X1XSUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

1. Organizational secretaries of the SED for all Soviet Zone Länder were called to Berlin on 27 May 1948 to report the progress of the Volksbegehren. Max Fechner and Franz Dahlem presided over the meeting at which Wilhelm Pieck and Erich Greifke were present for several hours. The main discussion dealt with organizational shortcomings, difficulties experienced throughout the Soviet Zone in collecting signatures for the Volksbegehren, and the future functions of the People's Committees (Volksausschüsse).
2. Dahlem explained that these committees, formed to carry out the People's Initiative, had a further mission not yet properly understood by lower party headquarters. The Initiative is only one stage of a long bitter battle for Germany. The next question will be an "occupation statute of the peace treaty". The Volksrat will vehemently oppose the statute. By proposing a peace treaty and withdrawal of troops, the Russians are already winning great support and will greatly embarrass the Western Powers.
3. Dahlem continued by saying that the job now is to build up the lowest units, the People's Committees, as the foundation and the framework first for the Volksrat, and later for the national movement. They must be established at once in every city, borough, and precinct, in villages, factories, and home groups. The Second Volkskongress will be labeled "unity", the next will be "peace treaty and withdrawal of occupation troops". He emphasized that the committees are to represent all parties and mass organizations but "their prime task is to push back and paralyze the reactionary wings of the bourgeois parties".
4. Fechner added that the "committees must become the best weapon for achieving our will down to the lowest level".
5. Committees already organized are as follows:

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Local Committees (ortsausschüsse)

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NO CHANGE in Class.

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- 2 -

Factory	1400
Home Groups	2245
City	125

Thuringia

Local	2989
Factory	1355
City	354
District	281

Saxony-Anhalt

Local (with 17365 members including 1700 IDP and 1500 GDU)	2614
County	38
City	4
Factory	441

Home group committees are almost non-existent

Mecklenburg

Local	2200
Factory	400
Home groups (limited to Schwerin and Rostock)	40 to 50

Brandenburg

Local (the teachers have been of great help)	160
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Illegal committees exist in the western sectors of Berlin

Comment: These Ausschüsse are expected to fulfill the same function as the Action Committees in Czechoslovakia.)

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